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The invention claimed is:

1. [3 as filed on 01/21/99] A monitoring device useful for seeking to locate a temporarily lost item having a coating of an explicit material, said monitoring device comprising : a source for electrical power; means actuated by such electrical power for generating a laser beam having a wavelength corresponding to the reflecting characteristics of said explicit coating material; receptor cells responsive to the light reflected from such laser beam; amplifier means amplifying the electrical signal indicative of such reflected light; and indicating means alerting an observer to the varying intensity of such reflected light when the laser beam scans a search zone possibly containing such temporarily lost item.
2. [4 as filed on 01/21/99] The monitoring device of claim 1 [3] in which the indicating means features an audio signal.
3. [5 as filed on 01/21,99] The monitoring means of claim 1 [3] in which the laser beam has a wavelength of 1310 nm.